

CASA Kane County Visitation Protocol

To satisfy the National CASA/GAL standard for visitation, a volunteer must visit a child in person once every 30 days. During this health crisis, National CASA/GAL is encouraging programs to consider alternative visits to ensure the safety of children, volunteers, and staff.

In March 2020, CASA Kane County suspended all in-person visitation and suggested several alternative methods to in-person contact, including virtual visits (Facetime, Zoom, Google Duo), phone calls, and text messages. CASA Kane County continues to recommend virtual visits as the preferred mode of communication.

However, in light of the DCFS, Action Transmittal dated June 15, 2020, CASA Kane County will resume in-person visitation starting **July 15, 2020**. Parameters include compliance with the guidelines of the CDC/Center for Disease Control, the IDPH/IL Dept. of Public Health and the following:

- Prior to the first in-person visit, a visit request form must be submitted in writing.
- Should any of your screening answers change, a new visit request form should be submitted prior to the next in-person visit.
- Volunteer or staff shall ask the foster parent the following pre-screening questions before attending the visit and document those answers in optima:
 - Have you or anyone in your home experienced the following symptoms: sore throat, body aches, coughing, shortness of breath, or a fever of 100.4 or higher within the last 14 days?
 - Within the previous 14 days, have you or anyone in your home been in close contact (closer than 6ft for at least 15 minutes without the use of a mask) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?
- Before the visit, volunteers shall ask if all participants have the required face coverings/masks necessary for participation.
- Volunteers must ensure all participants wear face coverings/masks during the in-person visit at all times, except for children under two (2) years of age.
 - Please review the following documents for additional guidance: IDPH: Guidance on Use of Masks by the General Public; Face Coverings Do's and Don'ts and CDC: Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID 19.
- Volunteers must follow social distancing requirements during the visit as defined in Illinois Executive Order 2020-32.
 - Must maintain at least 6-foot social distance from other individuals
 - Shall not shake hands, avoid touching unnecessary surfaces
- No gifts or packages shall be exchanged without approval from Executive Director.
- Visitation shall not take place in a setting with more than ten (10) people in the immediate vicinity.

- Preference is for in-person visits to occur in an outdoor space/area including a backyard or patio area if available.
- In-person visits should be done outside the presence of the caregiver/foster parent if appropriate.
- Until further notice, there shall not be any in-person visit with a medically fragile or complex youth or if after a Child and Family Team Meeting it was determined that in person visits were not allowed due to the child's needs or condition.

In-person visits are not required at this time. If you are not comfortable with in-person contact at this time, please discuss with your Advocate Supervisor to establish a visitation plan. The health and safety of our volunteers, staff, and stakeholders are of utmost importance.

CASA Kane County Visit Form

CASA Volunteer Name: _____
CASA Child(ren): _____

CASA Volunteer Screening Questions:

- Have you or anyone in your home experienced the following symptoms: sore throat, body aches, coughing, shortness of breath, or a fever of 100.4 or higher within the last 14 days?
_____ No _____ Yes
- Within the previous 14 days, have you or anyone in your home been in close contact (closer than 6 ft for at least 15 minutes without the use of a mask) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?
_____ No _____ Yes

CASA Volunteer agrees to follow CASA's Visit Protocol:

- Volunteers must ask caregivers pre-screening question above before attending the visit.
- Volunteers must ensure all participants always wear face covering/mask during the in-person visit, except for children under two (2) year of age.
- Volunteers must follow social distancing requirements during the visit as defined in IL Executive Order 2020-32.
 - Must maintain at least 6-foot social distance from other individuals.
 - Shall not shake hands.
- No gifts or packages shall be exchanged without approval from the Executive Director.
- Visitation shall not take place in a setting with more than (10) people in the immediate vicinity.
- In-person visits should occur in an outdoor space/area.
- Should any of your screening answers change, a new visit request form should be submitted prior to the next in-person visit.
- Until further notice, there shall not be any in-person visit with a medically fragile or complex youth or if after a Child and Family Team Meeting it was determined that in person visits were not allowed due to the child's needs or condition.

CASA Volunteer

Date

Please submit to your Advocate Supervisor.

